

Evening Public Ledger

PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY
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Philadelphia, Saturday, October 29, 1921

HEADED IN THE RIGHT WAY

The criticism to which the financial officers of the City Administration were subjected at the time of the sale of a block of fifty-year 5 1/2 per cent bonds has borne fruit.

It was charged then that it was wasteful to obligate the city to pay interest at that rate for fifty years, and it was asserted that there should have been reserved the right to redeem the bonds at the expiration of twenty years or less.

The bonds for which bids were opened yesterday were in two groups. One group was for fifty years, with the city's option of redemption in twenty years; and the other group was for fifteen years.

The interest offered was 5 1/2 per cent. The city reduces its obligations by refunding this fifty-year loan at a lower rate in twenty years.

A syndicate offered to take the whole issue of \$12,629,800 at 103.30. This would yield to the city a premium of \$430,370.00. Or, to put it in other words, the city will get more than \$430,000 in excess of the amount which it desired to borrow.

The question arises at once, what is to be done with the extra \$430,000? It is borrowed money. The custom in the past has been to put the proceeds from premiums on bond issues into the current funds and to use them for current expenses.

The Charter, however, forbids the city to borrow money for current expenses. The Controller and the City Solicitor will have to decide what legal disposition can be made of this sum.

In the meantime, it is desirable that the financial officers of the city should consider the wisdom of adopting a wider policy. The city needs only \$12,629,800. It will receive \$13,060,170.00. If it had followed the New Jersey practice and advertised that it wished to borrow \$12,629,800 and would issue the bonds at 5 1/2 per cent to the bidder who would pay the most for the smallest amount of bonds, it would have to issue bonds for only a little more than \$12,000,000 and would have mortgaged the debt-contracting power to only that extent, and it would have saved something like \$250,000 a year in interest.

This result could be accomplished by a reservation of the right of the city to deliver only so many bonds at the price offered by the bidder as would net to it the sum which it wished to borrow. This is what a private business man would do who wished to continue his business and keep his debt obligations as low as possible. It is not too much to expect that the city will ultimately adopt this policy.

"THANK GOD, IT'S AVERTED"

It is what the president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen said when he learned that the strike had been called off.

He said that thousands of wives and children of the trainmen had written and begged him to do what he could to avert the strike.

These dependents on the workers know what idleness of the breadwinner at the beginning of winter would mean to them.

They are the sufferers in all strikes. If they could be considered a little more frequently there would be a greater disposition to settle wage disputes by arbitration.

Strikes have cost the country in dollars and cents more than they have ever won for the workers.

THE GREAT CAPTAINS

ON THE eve of the Disarmament Conference General Pershing, back home again, and Marshal Foch, making his American debut, are joint recipients of marked public enthusiasm.

If there is a seeming paradox in this situation, it is at least suspicious and stimulating in character. Happily, it is quite possible to wax fervent over the simultaneous appearance of these two distinguished military leaders without specially glorifying war.

It is quite conceivable that in times past a soldier with a Pershing sword could have carved for himself an easy path to the presidency of this Republic. In the France of bygone days an army officer's opportunity for a conspicuous rise in rank was in a campaign.

A count mass of courses, be taken of anything influencing in the two nations, but equally significant are the personal attributes of the two chieftains.

Technically, so far as knowledge of the art of war is concerned, there is much that is Napoleonic in Foch. Morally, he presents the complete antithesis of the audacious Emperor.

Of the self-seeking military politician there is in the modest Pershing not a discernible spark. Both great captains made their names in the most blood-drenched struggle ever undertaken by a civilized nation against mankind. They were peace bringers. It is as such that they are publicly regarded.

The times are out of joint for Bonapartes and Fremonts. They are ripe for such praise as will be Foch's portion on his nation-wide tour and Pershing's on his return to native soil. The cheering is spontaneous, and rightly so.

WATER RATE EXTORTION

ASSUMING for the moment the somewhat unfamiliar role of public benefactor, Council has definitely interested itself in the ancient but surviving abuses suffered by residents in the outlying sections of the city at the hands of private water supply companies.

The departure takes the form of a resolution requesting the City Solicitor to report to Council the rights and status of these organizations and the possibility of relief by municipal service.

It is the simple and bitter truth that suburban and country water concerns have long practiced extortion upon their customers.

Councilman Hall, who introduced the inquiry program, declares that residents of Oak Lane are paying as much as \$7 a month for water in two-story dwellings, whereas for the same supply the charge of the city would be only about \$15 a year.

It is probable that an increase in the tax rate from the suburban to full city rate would follow the elimination of the private water companies from the territory of Philadelphia County, but unlikely that the higher levy would leave no margin of financial gain.

Naturally, the water companies have made the most of their monopolies. It is equally logical for the city to protect its residents by furnishing them with water at reasonable rates.

The old distinctions between the built-up central portions of Philadelphia and the suburban fringe are being rapidly effaced. The change should be accompanied by an identical municipal water service throughout the whole county.

NEW MOTOR TRAFFIC RULES AND THE CHAUFFEURLESS CAR

Fresh Trouble for the Multitudes Who Regard the Automobile as a Business Utility

THE puzzling thing nowadays, if you live in a city like ours, is not to get an automobile, but to know what to do with it when you get it.

The policeman are becoming constantly more strict toward folk who go up and down in motors, and it is hardly fair to blame them for that. They are, as the French neatly say, *dehors*. Yet automobiles are truly marvelous things. Even the littlest of them will return good for evil in a way that makes the faultiest dog seem in comparison like a black-souled hydropneumatic. They seem to know more than a good many people who drive them. They survive all sorts of shameful treatment with a bright air of letting bygones be bygones.

The lamentable thing is that with the approach of the motor millennium innumerable people in every big city in the East are gradually being deprived of the fullest benefits of a device that seems in its present state to be the actual embodiment of many essential virtues.

Listening to Director Cortelyou or Superintendent Mills, you realize that we are in the shadow of a day when, to get the best use of a motorcar, it will be necessary to live and do business somewhere in the open country.

The city streets are gradually being closed to the man who drives his own motor to his business and to the theatre. If the new parking plan of the police department is actually put in operation, motorists will have little more than the right of passage in the area between Race and Vine streets and Seventh and Eighteenth. Lucky folk who have chauffeurs will be able to send their machines to wait in a far place. But the hard-working bus that is accustomed to drowse at the curb while its boss works for the tires and gasoline will have to pass its idle moments outside the garage at home.

The police whose job it is to keep traffic moving are doing their best amid a welter of difficulties. Yet it would be possible to accept each new system of motor regulation with better grace if the people at City Hall were more ready to be content with merely restrictive measures. If there isn't room in the city for automobiles, room ought to be provided in one way or another. It is because no one ever appears to think in constructive terms that automobile owners will sooner or later succumb to a mood of irritation.

In many important Western cities there are public parking places where cars are cared for by the police, who charge a very small fee for this special service. Where there are no open spaces there are public garages operated under a reasonable scale of rates.

You cannot solve problems such as the police are wrestling with by merely driving motorists further and further away from their centers.

There is a great deal of open space at the eastern end of the Parkway which might be used for a motor park. It is conceivable that if the commercial traffic were diverted to some of the smaller streets, sections of Broad street might be made available for idle cars without hindering traffic. Since motorists naturally follow the better paved streets, the central highways are most seriously congested. A time may come when it will be necessary to remove trailers from one or more cross-town streets to make an unimpeded, well-paved way for commercial trucks.

Director Cortelyou did not overstate the case when he said that the traffic police are now almost at their wit's end. To understand the nature of the problem with which the traffic department is confronted, one has to take a long look at a Market street or any of the other streets used by westward traffic late in the afternoon.

The jam is becoming intolerable and dangerous. It is nothing unusual for cars to spend twenty minutes in getting from Eighth street to Broad street station. The danger is one of course to the crisis of vehicle traffic on the central and cross streets.

When parking to the streets are filled and the sidewalks are rigidly restricted, what is left is left to the latest police plan, the movement of all sorts of traffic will be facilitated. But it will be facilitated at the cost of many thousands of motor owners who have reason to regard the automobile as an indispensable daily convenience. Of these people the city will have to think seriously before it is much older. Wider and better paved streets in the downtown regions would help enormously. Some new system of parking or storage will have to be devised.

The traffic problem will not be settled by a partial banishment of motorists from the streets. It will merely be ended.

A WARRIOR'S MEMORIAL

A BATTLE monument to a soldier of the Civil War is the vital nucleus of the Gorge Memorial Institute of Physical and Preventive Medicine, the basic plan of which were laid at a noteworthy meeting of physicians, Government officials and distinguished workers in the field of human health held here on this day.

The people of Panama donated the site for the institution, which is to adorn the capital of the Isthmian republic. Its maintenance will be secured by a foundation similar to that supporting the work of the Carnegie and Rockefeller enterprises.

As a national center of fact in the currents of human progress it would be difficult to surpass this noble project.

As a leader of the forces of enlightenment, General William Gorge takes rank as one of the great captains of history. Caesar, Alexander, Napoleon—these were lethal conquerors. General Gorge had life, his amelioration and enrichment, as the standard of his untiring ambition.

His war against disease, especially in that otherwise favored garden which you call the tropics, was fought on many fields, but of all his triumphs that at Panama was the most signal.

The materialistic fruits of that conquest are marked by the great canal, but the victory, ever yellow fever transcends that achievement. It is in the highest degree fitting that the institution which is to commemorate and carry on the life work of

OUR KINGS IN COUNCIL

The Officials Whom Philadelphia Delights to Honor Had Their Unlucky Prototypes in the Past—And They, Too, Had a Tough Time

By GEORGE NOX MCCAIN

Did not Council at its recurrent meetings amuse itself by ranking with the lives and safety of the people of Philadelphia, the antics of its vociferous majority would be diverting.

It is not that its leaders, Councilmen Hall, Gaffney and Weiglin, are gentlemen of protean versatility, with eloquence instantly available for every subject, from sinking funds to horse stables, a considerable number of citizens, soot as they were, were scarcely getting their money's worth from the weekly performance.

The vote of confidence in the Vars organization, which was given by the citizens at the recent primary election has inspired the gentlemen of the majority to renewed activity and fresh outbursts of flamboyant and impassioned eloquence.

The fact that bridges are closed to traffic as being dangerous to life; that in this, the second city in the Nation, one patrolman on an average is detailed to the protection of 3000 dwellings, and that almost every suggested improvement is hamstrung by Council without a hearing from its proponents, are minor matters that must be set aside until the vital issue of least cost financing is established from a local boss has been decided upon.

NATURALLY, it is just what the people want. They express their opinion on this sort of thing in no uncertain way at the polls last month.

They will reaffirm that desire November 8, responsible for his support and to manage his friends and "buddies" of their Kings in Council.

For Philadelphia today is ruled by Kings instead of Councilmen.

They have increased, in their jovial and clamorous way, the administrative functions of other city officials.

They have elevated the rubbish can to the pinnacle of honor.

When a distinguished Tammany leader some years ago announced that gem of political wisdom: "What's the Constitution for, unless you're a politician?" he must have visualized in the dim future a Vars councilmanic combination.

There is another political axiom equally applicable whose truth has been verified in the history of cities and of nations: "People usually get the kind of government they deserve."

Councilmen elected as reformers have turned renegades. City officials have betrayed their constituencies and delight in parading the fact.

Meantime, their masters, the citizenry, continue to be misled and robbed for lack of sufficient police and fire protection.

They complacently traverse bridges that threaten collapse for lack of repairs or rebuilding.

They smile indulgently when hundreds of thousands of dollars of their money is voted into the pockets of favored contractors.

Having been smitten on one cheek, they not only submit the other, but assume a position subserviently adapted to the application of the boot.

Citizens who resent the autocracy of this councilmanic combination still retain an illusive hope that history may repeat itself in the case of the "Charles," the "Joes," the "Dicks," and even the "Alexises," for each of these councilmanic Kings has had previous and perilous fatalities.

There is room still for vast improvement. We are not yet mosquito-free, like Havana, nor without disease-breeding swamps and slums.

But as metropolises go, Philadelphia presents a notable instance of hygienic development. What has been done can be most fittingly appreciated as an inspiring beginning.

J. BARLEYCORN, M. D.

DOCTORS of medicine are men who cultivate the quality of mental equanimity as a recognized virtue. Restraint of speech and temper and calmness in the face of calamity are characteristic of their everyday lives. But the rage inspired in doctors everywhere by the sixty efforts of Washington to enlist them as pinch-hitters for the bar-boss of old is none the less dangerous because it is suppressed and revealed only at rare intervals in some by pronouncement from the lips of the doctor.

Physicians believe that the wets and the drys alike are trampling destructively on their sacred preserves. If they feel, in a word, that they are being belittled, they cannot be blamed.

When the doctors should have been called in to advise Congress they were entirely ignored. When they wanted only to be left alone, Mr. Mellon, without a word of warning, commanded them for extraordinary duty in the field. All the distinguished pathologists in Congress were content to allow their names to be put on the list of the legal definitions of their own and their patients' health.

They knew what was good for people and what was bad for them.

Mr. Mellon's long practice of medicine and his profound knowledge of human physiology were adequate to instill complete confidence in the public. He was an object of admiration to those who were not of his own profession, who crowd the House and the Senate. Medical men who tend the sick were not asked to testify regarding the worth or worthlessness of alcohol in beverages. They were invited to aid in the effort to define the quality of an intoxicant. The day before in Congress there was a crusade which became a sham. More evidence wasn't permitted to have part in it.

There were doctors who looked on and wondered and made no sound. A great many of them refused to believe that light wine is a poison—but they were compelled to act according to that belief. None of them had believed that beer is medicine. But the order of the Secretary of the Treasury requires that they accept that belief as it has been newly formulated somewhere in the neutral zone between Mr. Mellon's office and the Capitol.

The George L. Armstrong, retiring president of the American College of Surgeons, tells the case boldly when he suggests that most doctors will refuse to act as intermediaries between the lawless and the multitudes that thirst. He doesn't say, as he might have done, that Mr. Mellon's order, by creating a new tax money for unprincipled physicians and unprincipled druggists, leaves reputable and conscientious members of both professions at a disadvantage. A doctor who refuses to prescribe medicinal beer will be in some danger of losing some patients whose well-being he is not so sanguine as to regard. A druggist who doesn't sell beer will not make much money as the war has done. Yet the man who is in business to deal legitimately in drugs cannot afford to run a hotting establishment or have department on the side. He would have to reorganize his whole delivery system.

It would have been far better if Mr. Mellon had broadened the rule and made it possible for every man to write his own prescription and have it filled at a saloon. Then we could all be doctors together. Certainly the average man is as well qualified as Mr. Mellon to practice medicine.

The medical beer pet will not simplify the prohibition question. It will confuse it. If the Government wants to legalize light wines and beer it ought to have the courage of its convictions and do so. All this blabbing around the bush is futile and unedifying.

One way of punishing Blanton and Herold would be to make them loaf to gether.

THE SOUTH APPROVES

THE earnest tone of Mr. Harding's Birmingham address upon the race problem is re-echoed in the comment of the most influential Southern newspapers. The few editors who resent interference by the North-erner in a social and political question peculiarly affecting one section of the country cling narrowly to an old and obstructive convention.

The spirit of a broader Americanism is grasped by the Charleston News and Courier, which believes that the effect of the speech "will be wholesome"; by the Birmingham News, which calls it "wonderfully courageous"; and by the Baltimore Evening Sun, which regards it as "fortunate for the country that the Republican President has officially discarded the old policy and has come to look at facts from the patriotic and commonsense standpoint."

Journalistic voices such as these testify to the wisdom of the President in speaking frankly and tend to support his obvious belief that the time for treating with andor a theme once regarded as of perilous delicacy has arrived.

In Atlanta yesterday Mr. Harding touched indirectly upon the same subject, emphasizing the value of the distinguished services of Henry W. Grady as an indefatigable conciliator with a broad conception of the cause of national unity.

In some quarters the suspicion has been expressed that Mr. Harding is seeking to rehabilitate the Republican Party in the South. The intention, if it exists, is not necessarily reprehensible as a by-product of a new program grounded in large and intelligent sympathy calculated to efface outmoded barriers of sectionalism.

Mr. Harding has championed a wider diffusion of political opinion throughout the country. There is much less of rigid partisanship in this sentiment than of antagonism to more grown prejudices in States North and South alike militating against the most desirable forces of national cohesion.

Mr. Harding has thoughtfully analyzed a case bristling with difficulties. These are rendered not a whit less perplexing by an aversion to facing them—a fact shown to be in accord with the best Southern opinion.

MUNICIPAL HEALTH

WE have only fifteen miles of streets without sewers. Not long ago we had 135 miles of such streets. A few years ago there were 40,000 pigs in the city. Today I doubt if you will find forty."

It is to sanitary progress of this kind that B. J. Neuman, managing director of the Philadelphia Housing Association, attributes the remarkable reduction of Philadelphia's death rate within past eleven years. The percentage has fallen from 17 to 14 per thousand.

While self-praise is often dangerous, and especially so with regard to public health conditions, recognition of a great reform in this instance can be rightly regarded as an incentive to further effort. Able health directors such as Dr. Krusen and Dr. Furbush have revealed by the very accomplishment previous and perilous fatalities.

There is room still for vast improvement. We are not yet mosquito-free, like Havana, nor without disease-breeding swamps and slums.

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DR. J. H. WILLITS

On the Importance of the Foreman in Industry

WHAT is a foreman? He has been defined as a man who has a knowledge of the policies and problems of his employers beyond what immediately concerns his own duties and the duties of the men under him.

"Industry specialists," says Dr. J. H. Willits, head of the Department of Industry at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, "have long since provided the answer. They say a foreman is a man who can do the work of a foreman and a worker at the same time."

In every instance the analogy is not only striking, but is at times absolutely startling.

THE noble, impetuous and undisputed leader of the Kings in Council, Charles H. Gaffney, was also of the Seventh Ward. He has innumerable points in common with another Charles H. King of the West Franks in the city of Philadelphia.

He was a bridge expert, too, as, by history records, he tried to "put a barrier in the way of having bridges built over all the rivers."

From beginning to end of this first King Charles' reign he was constantly in hot water.

His fingers were always getting burned, though there is no record that he discovered a municipal scandal in the fact that his Director of Public Safety in one year had 1700 men in the city of Philadelphia.

What more appropriate than that the prototype of the first Joseph II be a Roman Emperor?

In the words of the historian: "In 1701 he was made a member of the newly constituted Council of Ministers. He was called to draw up minutes, to which he gave the name of 'Reveries.'"

A weird prophecy, quaintly applicable to the first King Joseph, surname Gaffney, recites: "These were the seeds of the germ of his later policy and of all the disasters which finally overtook him."

The first King Joseph, who died in 1701, was a member of the Council of Ministers. He threw himself into a succession of "policies all aimed at the betterment of the state, and all equally calculated to offend his neighbors."

But why continue?

"MY KINGDOM for a horse" was one of the wails of a King Richard, hundreds of years later it may be the wail of another Richard in a mayoralty battle.

The first Richard, King of the Council, was the prototype of the first King Joseph in English history. It has never been solved to this day. He just disappeared.

It is a fairly almost unbelievable thing that Richard of today, Weiglin of the Twentieth, runs true to type.

He could qualify as the reincarnation of the English Richard, King of the Council, of "Kent." In the greatest of his life the latter planned a reversal of the Government under Gloucester, which, in the wording of the ancient chronicler, "was prostrate and ill-governed."

Subsequently, so the record runs, "Richard changed his methods."

Therein lies the germ of a great hope for the future of Philadelphia. It is the hope that the first King in Council of a later day.

The golden thread of prophetic analogy might be continued indefinitely, but another strand will suffice.

The thread leads into the mists of history 304 years B. C. in Athens.

The first Xenon was neither a charcoal peddler, a line burner, an advertising solicitor nor a porter; much less a King.

He was a comic poet; the funny fellow of Athens.

The human factor in industry was discussed long ago by the best results can be got from men of varying temperaments, and what the relations and responsibilities between employer and employee and between the foreman and worker and between the foreman and his employees are. The principles of health and safety supervision, essential to any industry, were discussed.

"This year it is proposed to go considerably beyond that. We have already had Deputy Governor Hutt, of the Federal Reserve district here, talk to the men on existing financial conditions, explaining the situation of the European exchanges and the influence on trade and production in this country. For example, he told them what is meant by such phrases as liquidation.

"This theme will be continued next week by C. W. Huter, formerly general manager of the White Motor Company, and in the week following by Charles R. Weir, vice president of the Le Long Hook and Eye Company, who will deal with the economic situation which requires lower selling prices in order that buying may be encouraged.

Other Plans for Year

"I might mention some of the other lectures to be given this year," Walter Fuller,

ME FOR YOU!

The calling off of the railroad strike was a victory for public opinion.

Who says that our city Solons are not devotees of the arts and the news?

Scouters who deem the Tax Bill inevitable seem willing to put off the evil day of final passage.

Another boast for the President. Scouts Pat Harrison and Tom Watson are attacking his Birmingham speech.

Football fans may now overhaul their Bartlett for "Of all sad things of tongue and pen" and "Fitt-y 'tis 'tis true."

The number of men who are saying "I told you so" concerning the railroad strike is unusually large and unusually truthful.

The Cynical Orestes opines that the reason some druggists object to handling beer is that it will interfere with their whiskey trade.

We gather from reports from India that the difference between a Moplah and a Hoopla is that the latter is actuated by joyous enthusiasm.

What the Congressional Record appears to need is an editor with a blue pencil. Had Blanton been censured there had been no need of his being censured.

"The Pacific question once settled," said Premier Briand to the French Chamber of Deputies, "disarmament will come up. Here is optimism full grown and sailing."

More than half the families in the United States live in rented houses, says the Census Bureau. Lots of room here for "Own-Your-Own-Home" propaganda.

A turtle 150 years old laid six eggs on one day, says the steward of the United Fruit Lines. Turtles, which had fifteen of the critters aboard. It is a good record, but, of course, in 150 years she must have had lots of practice.

Warren S. Stone, Grand Chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, cut his hand while smashing the camera of a man he thought was trying to take his picture. He seems to have made the punishment fit the crime.

The Middletown, Conn., man who married on the day his father was sentenced to death for murder and plans to take his bride after the honeymoon, is a bangalore when the murder was committed, cannot be said to be cursed with imagination.

Cannelville physicians have pledged themselves not to write prescriptions for wine and wine, and Cannelville druggists have pledged themselves not to fill such prescriptions if such should chance to be presented, thus leaving a clear field for the bootleggers.

Youth has never been given a fair hearing than that accorded by the press of the country to the plea of students at Princeton that war be aided by limiting armament. Youth sometimes speaks words of wisdom while Age and Experience are fumblingly searching for the right phrase.

There were so many visitors in Philadelphia on Sunday last that the hotels had to turn many of them away. How proud Philadelphia should be to be so popular! How ashamed Philadelphia should be to have no better accommodations for her guests! How wise Philadelphia will be if she begins to plan at once for the big fair crowds!

Why, asked the Subaltern, why can't the P. R. T. operate the Frankford "L" and the city guarantee to meet deficiencies on the understanding that the moment the proposition becomes profitable the city shall be reimbursed for money advanced? Because, he went on pessimistically, because it is poor bookkeeping that can't delay profits.

The Treasurer of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee has resigned, because, in his opinion, the women's division of the Executive Committee was spending too much money. The committee, therefore, college, appeared to suggest that the women's division be continued, but that the members be called upon to raise some of the money for the party. The committee, therefore, plan to hold a banquet. Just in a little while the free and independent electorate will be called upon to patronize a rummage sale to provide funds for boosting political candidates. Later on there may be donation parties for ill paid officeholders.



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

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